The Black Hills Union.

RAPID CITY, - SO. DAKOTA

Every man dreams away down in his heart that the law does not apply to him, and sometimes he is rudely awakened.

As long as individual members of the sexes persist in humbugging each other, just so long will the millenium be postponed.

The navy, says a Washington dispatch, is to be put on a war footing. Presumably they are going to try to get it to float.

The tougher a man is the more apt he is to show by his conduct that he believes that careless charity will atone for a vast amount of reckless sin.

One of the superstitions that will survive until the end of time is that the man who does not smile when addressing a female acquaintance is a crossgrained bear.

People generally are now putting football on the same plane as prize-fighting. In a prize-fight it is hardly possible for more than two people to be killed during the game, while in a football scrap half a dozen or more may perish. We may all live to see it prohibited.

The New York Journal collected opinions from a number of prominent people on Thanksgiving day, as to why they were thankful and what for. Among others Mr. Frederic R. Coudert informed the questioning reporter that he was thankful that "he was a lawyer and not a journalist."

It was said of certain connections of a famous Englishman that they inflicted rather than bestowed their bounties. The manner of giving to those in need is sometimes quite as important as the gift itself. The winter, with its call for discriminating charity, is at hand. In no case let that charity be an infliction.

The brothers of the late California millionaire Fair are at last out with the full statement of their reasons for protesting the will. They declare it to be an absolute forgery and also state that their brother never married Mrs. Craven, who inherits the property under the will. A great sensation is expected before the trial ends.

In the Philippine islands the humane Spanish officials have substituted the public shooting of insurgents for the bull fights as a means of entertaining the public. The unfortunate prisoners are shot in large numbers in the public square to the accompaniment of music by the military bands, and the crowds enjoy the exhibition thoroughly.

Postmaster Smith of Horton, Iowa, used to burn campaign documents instead of delivering them, and now Postmaster Smith of Horton is in a peck of trouble. When Horton people are as eager for educational documents as they were last fall it was too bad to deprive them of them. Only Mr. Smith knows what they missed, and he wishes now that he didn't.

The civilizing effects of clean streets on the tenement-house districts in New York city are distinctly marked. Fresher paints on the stores, clean windows, and other tokens of a change for the better, attest the value of the object-lesson of streets no longer a disgrace to the municipality. Observers also note that tenement-house entrances are not tracked with street mud. Even the children seem to look more tidy. The moral influence of ways fit for the foot to walk upon and for the eye to rest upon is undoubted. It is just as true that good roads in country districts have done a service in promoting order and cleanliness.

THE TOMB SPIDER.

The Mysterious White Creature Found in Old Catacombs of Italy.

The working people of Italy believe in the existence of a wonderful creature which, for the want of a better name, is called the tomb spider. The entomologists know nothing of this queer beast, and declare it only exists in the fancy of the superstitious persons and those whose curiosity or business makes it necessary for them to explore old ruins, tombs, catacombs, etc.

The tomb spider is of a pure white color, has wings like those of a bat, a dozen horrid crooked legs, a body three or four times the size of the largest tropical American tarantula. Any Italian will tell you that such a creature exists, and that he is occasionally met with in the old mines and caverns. A London journal has an article from a correspondent who was present when some Roman workmen unearthed a church of the fifth century. "We were," says the writer, "standing by one of the heavy pillars that had originally supported the roof when something flashed down from the pitchy darkness overhead, and paused full in the candlelight beside us, at about a level with our eyes. It was distinctly as visible as a thing could be at a distance of three feet, and appeared to be an insect about half the size of a man's fist, white as wax, and with its many long legs gathered in a bunch as it crouched on the stone. * * * Our guide had seen or at least heard of this uncanny insect of ill omen before, but was by no means reconciled to its presence, as his actions proved. He glanced around uncomfortably for a moment and then moved away, we following. It seems really a bit queer, but it is said that the strongest nerves give way in the presence of this white insect of such ghostly mien. Even to-day this uncanny apparition is said to be an unclassified monster—an eternal mystery. When the grave spider is encountered by those opening tombs and vaults, it is thought to be a sign' of death to one of the workmen or some member of his family."

Rosa Bonheur's Pets.

Rosa Bonheur's power over animals is said to be marvelous. It has been repeatedly ascribed to hypnotism, but whatever may be the cause the fact remains that Mme. Bonheur has repeatedly gone into a cage full of lions and tigers and the animals have never resented her intrusion. On the contrary, they put up their heads to be scratched and show the greatest delight.

For a long time she kept a lion that had been refused by the different circus managers on account of his fierce, untamable disposition, but no sooner did Rosa Bonheur take him in hand than he developed the greatest affection for her. Day by day she painted this magnificent beast, occasionally rewarding his patient posing with a caress. When, however, Mme. Bonheur became so absorbed in her work that she would forget all about him, very gently indeed would the king of beasts put up his paw to call her attention to the fact that his head had not been patted for ever so long.

A lioness belonging to Rosa Bonheur died with her head in the artist's lap. In her huge paws she held the beloved hands of her mistress till death loosened her grasp.—New York Recorder.

You Cannot Count a Trillion.

It is impossible to count a trillion. Had Adam counted continuously from his creation to the present day, he would not have reached that number, for it would take him over 9,512 years. At the rate of 200 a minute, there could be counted 12,000 an hour, 288,000 a day, and 105,120,000 a year.

Licorice.

The licorice plant is chiefly grown on the banks of the Tigris and Euphrates, in localities where for three months, during the prevalence of hot winds, the temperature reaches 104 degrees, and for three months often registers 30 degrees below at night.

Peach Growing in Canada.

Mr. W. W. Hilborn, in charge of the Ontario Southwestern Fruit Station, gives his method of planting and cultivating a peach orchard, which he says has answered well with him: Select medium size trees, one year old from the bud. Shorten in the roots and cut off all side branches of the top if there are good strong buds on the main stem. Cut this back to two or two and a half feet in height. Each succeeding spring we thin out superfluous branches, and shorten in the new growth nearly one-half until the trees begin to bear fruit in quantity. When the trees bear large crops of fruit they do not make such long growth of wood and require less pruning. Cultivate often and thoroughly, from early spring until midsummer. If no other crop is grown among the trees, sow to rye about the 1st of September; this will form a covering for the soil during the winter and some food for the trees when plowed under in early spring. The rye also absorbs some of the surplus moisture during the growing autumn season, which prevents a late growth of wood on the trees that would otherwise take place. If we expect to have the trees go through the winter uninjured, we must have the wood ripened up thoroughly when cold weather sets in. The soil among the trees should not be plowed deep at any time after the roots have made sufficient growth to be in danger of being disturbed by the plow. One of the most important considerations in cultivating any orchard is to stir the soil, always to about the same depth; the roots are then undisturbed to any injurious extent.

Kansas Dairy Products.

The following table shows the value of butter and cheese manufactured and milk sold yearly in Kansas in the ten years beginning with 1887, as returned by assessors:

Year.	Total value.
1887	$4,860,377.32
1888	5,094,675.13
1889	4,451,927.02
1890	4,100,872.28
1891	4,958,961.47
1892	4,665,498.89
1893	4,846,738.79
1894	4,870,481.32
1895	4,510,631.95
1896	4,972,445.96

The table below shows the number of milch cows in Kansas in each of the years named, and the average value of their yearly individual dairy product, as deducted from the table above:

Year.	No. of cows.	Av. value of product per cow.
1887	692,858	$7.01
1888	742,639	6.86
1889	723,552	6.15
1890	674,705	6.07
1891	690,611	7.18
1892	631,386	7.38
1893	567,353	8.54
1894	524,127	9.29
1895	517,254	8.72
1896	515,075	9.65

F. D. Coburn, Secretary.

Prairie Fires.

Year by year, as regularly as the seasons come round, thousands of settlers suffer, more or less seriously, from prairie fires, says Farmers' Advocate. Not only is property destroyed, but frequently human life is sacrificed. Owing to the luxuriant vegetation this year, the chances are that these fires will be more widespreading and destructive than usual, and no one can feel safe from now till the ground is whitened with snow, unless securely safeguarded from all possible danger. These fires arise from many and various causes. The railway companies are blamed for much of the trouble, but if everyone exercised the amount of care and spent as much money, proportionately, to guard against this danger as do the railways, there would be less damage done. Reckless and careless travelers, sportsmen, and others set out many a fire; threshers often neglect to extinguish the fire that lies dormant in the cinder piles under their engines, and from burning straw piles escape many a destructive fire. Too much caution cannot be exercised.

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